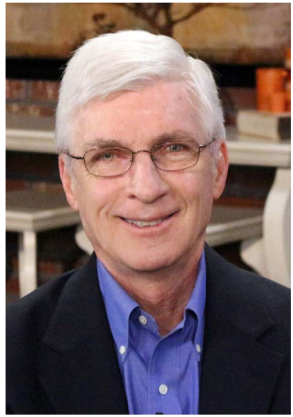




# RENEWAL MINISTRIES

Proclaiming Jesus through Catholic Renewal and Evangelization

April 2018



A letter ▶  
from Ralph Martin

## Dear Faithful Ones,

*I just signed a thank you letter for someone who has been with us from the very beginning of Renewal Ministries—1980! This husband and wife have been faithful donors all these years but recently came into an unexpected income boost and gave all of it—\$50,000—“to Jesus” through Renewal Ministries. Wow. Thank you.*

However, I am deeply grateful anytime anyone does anything to help our mission. I truly am moved when I review our thank you letters, sign as many as I can, and write some personal notes of appreciation when I have time. I always remember the “widow’s mite” and how something that may be a very small donation in the world’s eyes may be a very large donation in the Lord’s eyes.

Just the other day, as I was reviewing the orders people were making for various products and signing thank you letters for donations, I was particularly struck by how widespread the Renewal Ministries’ family is. Curious, I asked our office administrator to see if he could use his computer expertise to find out how many towns and cities in the US and Canada get our newsletter. The answer amazed me: **over 12,000 supporters in over 4,135 different cities and towns get our newsletter!! From the most rural and isolated of villages to the biggest of cities, you are there!**

Then I thought about how many other dedicated servants of the Lord there must be, connected with so many wonderful churches and ministries all over the world. Christians are indeed a leaven throughout the world, salt that hasn’t lost its savor!

Now and then I even run into “hidden saints” as I travel. Just recently, in an airport McDonald’s, the lady cleaning the tables recognized me from *The Choices We Face* television program, and we began to talk. She is a very dedicated Catholic who has fallen on hard times, with her husband divorcing her after many years and leaving her penniless with three children. Since then, whenever I go through this airport, I often run into her and we encourage each other in our faith. When St. Paul was discouraged about the opposition he might encounter when he was about to enter another city, the Lord spoke to him and said:

*“I am with you, and no man shall attack you to harm you; for I have many people in this city” (Acts 18:10).*

So, what else has been happening? Everything! I recently traveled to Dublin and Amsterdam. In Dublin, I spoke at the biggest annual conference in Ireland, the Divine Mercy conference, on opening night to young people and the next day to all 4,000 attendees. After that, I gave a talk to the Dominican seminarians and priests in Dublin.

*continued on page 2*



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Ralph was a keynote speaker at the 2018 Divine Mercy Conference in Dublin, Ireland—3,500 people attended!

“A significant aspect of our Lord's miracles is the cooperation He requires of the people involved. Rarely does He heal someone without requiring something. He tells the paralytic to take up his mat and walk, the man with the withered hand to stretch it forth, and the man born blind to go and wash. Consider how His commands challenge these men. He requires them to do the very thing their malady prevents. But in order to receive the miracle, they must trust the command, and try. For divine work to be accomplished, human trust is required.”



Father Paul Scalia,  
*That Nothing May Be Lost: Reflections on Catholic Doctrine and Devotion*  
 (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2017).

## Please Pray...

- ✚ For those seeking to understand the Lord's will in a difficult matter, that He would gently guide them and reassure them of His presence.
- ✚ For those living with chronic suffering, that the Lord would bring them strength, healing, and joy in the knowledge of His love and unending goodness.
- ✚ For the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.

Continued from page 1

In Amsterdam, I led a study day for priests, seminarians, and pastoral workers during the day (see photo below); in the evening, I met with leaders of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.



Country Coordinators Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw also recently travelled with Bishop Scott McCaig to help support our ongoing work with a wonderful bishop in Ethiopia.

Personally, I continue to be deeply impacted by the message of Fatima that I've encountered in the first-hand reports of Lucia, one of the three children who encountered the Angel of Portugal and Our Lady in very prophetic apparitions that have been fully approved by the Church.

If you can read only one book on Fatima, I would highly recommend Sr. Lucia's memoirs, which we are making available in the reply card with this letter.



Over a one-month period, I am scheduled to speak to grade school children in five more schools (I've already spoken to two schools) in the local area about how the smallest of children can live Our Lady's message and make a difference for the salvation of souls. All of us can make a huge difference for the salvation of souls by offering our prayers and sacrifices as Mary asked us to do.

FATIMA  
 A MESSAGE FOR US NOW  
 — Ralph Martin —



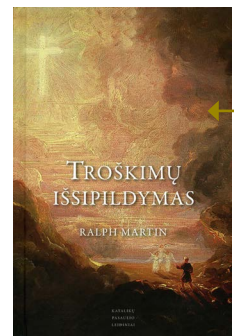
Peter Herbeck recently interviewed me on his program *Fire on the Earth*, and we recorded five fifteen-minute segments on the message and meaning of Fatima for us today. It went so well, we have made a CD of these messages available on our reply card also. Listen to *Fatima: A Message for Us Now*, and let me know how it impacts you!

Praying for and with you,

Ralph Martin

Ralph

**P.S.** More good news: The Ukrainian translation of Peter's book *When the Spirit Comes in Power* has just come out, and the Lithuanian translation of my book *The Fulfillment of All Desire* also was recently released. The Archbishop of Lithuania's capital, Vilnius, oversaw the laborious process of getting *The Fulfillment of All Desire* translated and published.



Also, today I just received an email from the translators of *The Fulfillment of All Desire* in Croatia that said the Dominican novices there studied it "in detail for several months by the decision of their novice master." Praise the Lord as His Word goes forth to purify us all and make us capable by His grace of bearing fruit!





# RESOURCE REVIEW: AS BY A NEW PENTECOST

We have had very positive feedback from people who responded to our survey about our *As By A New Pentecost* DVD series, which is intended to help facilitate Life in the Spirit Seminars. You can read some of the responses, from both leaders and participants, below:

- ▶ This experience deepened my prayer life.
- ▶ I am now more aware of God in my life throughout the day and, often, when I wake through the night. Prayers and thanksgiving come more often and more naturally.
- ▶ A most positive attitude toward my faith has increased. The Lord is more central in my life.
- ▶ The *As By A New Pentecost* series is a wonderful resource! The last talk, by Sr. Ann Shields, is amazing.

▶ Instead of hitting "snooze," I now pray.

- ▶ All of the participants were very moved by the Spirit. The DVD series is especially well done. We used it for the weeks leading up to Pentecost. I plan to use it again and again.
- ▶ Thirty people attended our seminar; all thought the DVD set was very good. We just had a seminar reunion, and half of the participants came. All gave testimony to being touched by the Holy Spirit through the seminar.

▶ I was blessed to have received the gift of tongues and the Holy Spirit.

▶ **The Life in the Spirit Seminar is for everyone. God in His goodness comes to each person and meets them where they are. If it has been one year since you have attended a seminar, it is time to do it again. God wants to give you even more now!**

▶ It reinforced my growth toward the Holy Spirit. I had just attended the Renewal Ministries' Gathering a few weeks before, and I came away with such a sense of peace.

▶ I now have a greater awareness, freedom, and openness.

▶ The series increased my anticipation and longing for the Holy Spirit!

▶ This was done very well. The speakers were inspirational and encouraged me to continue to grow in life in the Spirit.

▶ We used the *As By A New Pentecost* DVD set when we did our Life in the Spirit Seminar. It was excellent. We plan on using it again.

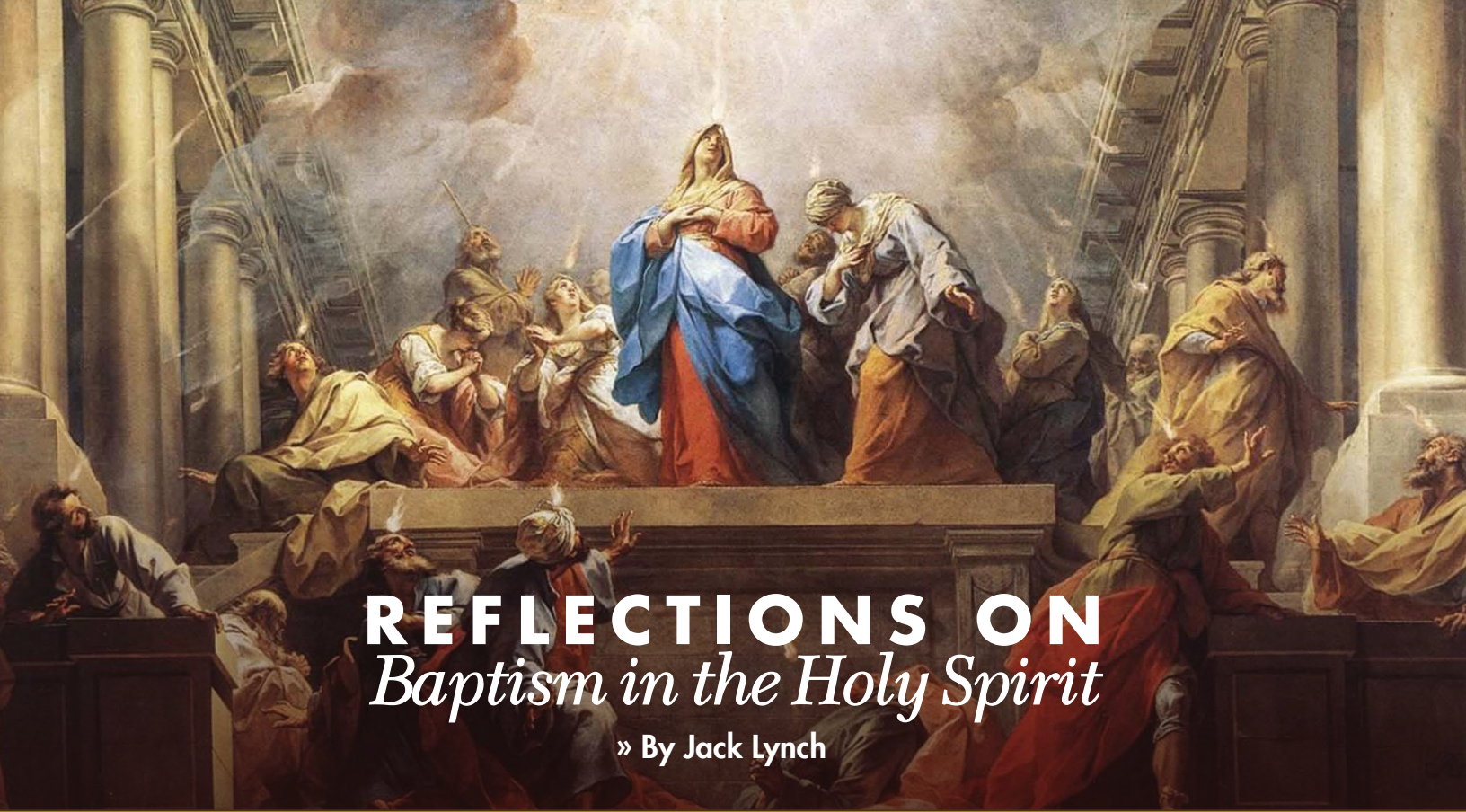
**ARISE!**

**IT'S NOT TOO LATE!**  
Join us for the annual  
**RENEWAL MINISTRIES' GATHERING**

**April 6-8, 2018**  
📍 Ypsilanti • Michigan

**FOR MORE DETAILS & TO REGISTER, VISIT**  
**[RenewalMinistries.net/gathering](http://RenewalMinistries.net/gathering)**  
**(Walk-ins Welcome)**





# REFLECTIONS ON *Baptism in the Holy Spirit*

» By Jack Lynch

**Since the beginning of the twentieth century, the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit has been a significant, life-changing experience for millions of Christians around the world.**

Much has been written about this grace to help us understand it from a theological perspective. One of the main ways this grace has been spread is through a series of classes called Life in the Spirit Seminars. Since the early 1970s, I have been involved in Life in the Spirit Seminars in a wide variety of settings. What I want to do here is offer some reflections on what happens to people when they are prayed with to receive a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which happens during the seminars, but also can happen in other circumstances as well.

My initial reflection is that we need to be careful in setting expectations for people. I have both prayed with and overseen prayer for hundreds of people over the years, and in my experience, only a small percentage have a dramatic, overwhelming, or especially defining experience when they ask to be baptized in the Spirit. This contrasts with the experiences of some of the most recognized leaders in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal—since most, if not all, of them did have a “powerful” experience. This includes all of the speakers on Renewal Ministries’ own *As By A New Pentecost* DVD series.

“ WE NEED  
TO BE  
CAREFUL  
IN SETTING  
EXPECTATIONS  
FOR PEOPLE. ”

Outlines in the Life in the Spirit Seminars’ team manuals caution seminar leaders to make sure people understand that experiences will vary when they are prayed with, and that people should not look for an “experience,” but simply offer their life to the Lord and ask for a new release of the Holy Spirit. Still, it is hard for people who hear about more powerful experiences to not feel some disappointment if they don’t have such an experience themselves.

This was the case in my own life. When I was prayed with for baptism in the Spirit decades ago, I didn’t have a dramatic experience. I did experience a kind of very light joy—nothing ecstatic or powerful—and the lifting of a feeling of condemnation. These certainly were things to appreciate, but nothing to make headlines. However, *as a few months went by*, I began to experience new gifts and *changes in my life*.

My initial attempts to yield to the gift of tongues sounded like nonsense or baby-talk. The recommendation—part of the standard advice in the team manuals—to not be overly concerned about that, but to continue “using what you’ve got,” was just right. As I “used what I had received” in my personal prayer and asked God to form it into the gift of tongues, He did just that. After a few months, I was clearly speaking a patterned language and sensing something in my spirit as I did so. Also, as months went by, I noticed other classic signs of being baptized in the Holy Spirit—a hunger for Scripture and a deepened understanding of it, a desire to share my faith, a renewed desire to pray and the grace to do it, and other new gifts (charisms) that began to manifest themselves.

**But all of this happened over a period of months.**



Over the years, this has led me increasingly to tell people, after they've been prayed with, to focus more on what happens in the near future than on what happened as they were asking for the outpouring. **I tell them to look for crocuses—those little flowers, so easily overlooked, that first appear as winter is ending—in their spiritual life.** I think the big question, as far as whether you've truly been baptized in the Spirit, is:

## *Has your life changed?*

Have you seen any changes in your life similar to the ones that I spoke about above? Have you seen any other changes, or movements toward God, in your life?

One woman I know experienced nothing at all when she asked to be baptized in the Spirit and received prayer. But shortly afterward, one of her kids asked, **“Mom, how come you're so much nicer now?”** And over the ensuing months, she began noticing a new fervor in her faith and new gifts manifesting themselves.

**This leads me to my final point. There has been a tendency within the Catholic Charismatic Renewal to tell people, “If you were prayed with to be baptized in the Spirit, then you were.” I think we need to reconsider that approach.** I've talked to people—definitely the few but, still, some—who cannot discern any difference in their lives, even months after being prayed with. In those cases, I think we have to admit the possibility that they weren't baptized in the Spirit. Again, the real question is: *Has your life changed?* If it hasn't—and if it doesn't—then I think we should acknowledge the possibility that there was some kind of obstacle, perhaps a serious unrepented sin; a lack of forgiveness for someone who hurt them, perhaps leading to bitterness and cynicism; a lack of desire; or a hardness of heart that kept faith from actually “catching.”

My point here is not that these things would *necessarily* prevent a person from receiving a release of the Holy Spirit (God is sovereign), but that these things *could* have blocked God's action, if there is no evidence of any difference in a person's life, post-prayer. In such cases, if the person still desires to be baptized in the Spirit, the obstacles can be addressed and another prayer session scheduled.

Also, perhaps there is just a mystery to it, and the person should not worry about an experience, but simply keep persevering in following Jesus. Perhaps it will come in the future; and if it doesn't, that may be OK too! The important thing is obeying Jesus and His Word, and persevering until the end.

*Jack Lynch is Renewal Ministries' TV and radio producer. He has been leading Life in the Spirit Seminars for forty-six years.*



## *Leave a Legacy of Faith*

We are extremely grateful for the generosity of so many people who strive to be the Lord's light in this world and who recognize Renewal Ministries' instrumental role in keeping the flame of faith burning through our efforts to:

- Share the Word of God Across the World
- Offer Formation for Priests, Deacons, Religious Sisters, and Laity
- Evangelize and Educate through TV and Radio Programs
- Provide Young Adult Outreach
- Be a Light in the Darkness

For the same reasons you support Renewal Ministries now, would you consider remembering us in your will?

Making a bequest to Renewal Ministries is simple...

### **Use this formula if you live in the United States:**

*I give and bequeath to Renewal Ministries Inc.,  
230 Collingwood, Suite 250, Ann Arbor, MI 48103,  
Tax ID 38-2385975, the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
for its general uses and purposes.*

### **Use this formula if you live in Canada:**

*I give and bequeath to Catholic Renewal Ministries Inc.,  
331 Evans Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M8Z 1K2,  
Registration No. 12374-0243-RR0001, the sum of  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for its general uses and purposes.*

## **QUESTIONS?**

Call Gary Seromik at 734-662-1730, ext. 121. Gary is the administrator for Renewal Ministries and will be happy to answer any of your questions.



**Tibi Majoros**  
COUNTRY COORDINATOR  
for ROMANIA

Tibi is the founder of the community of St. Paul Oradea and the administrator of Foundation Missio. He is also the former president of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Transylvania. Tibi began collaborating with Renewal Ministries in 1998, promoting and pioneering the work of evangelization in Hungary and Romania. Each year, he organizes evangelistic events, Holy Spirit seminars, youth camps, retreats and rallies, and helps to form young leaders.

He and his wife Martha live in Oradea, Romania, with their three sons.

# Spreading the GOSPEL in Romania

*In Romania, we are working to raise up a new generation of leaders. Our efforts appear to be bearing fruit, as the numbers are growing at our youth events, and I can see a new team forming around me. This report shares highlights from our service over the past year.*

## CSIT YOUTH GATHERING

With 1100 youth, the multi-day CSIT Youth Gathering is our biggest event of the year. It was a joy and an honor to once again be co-organizers of this event!

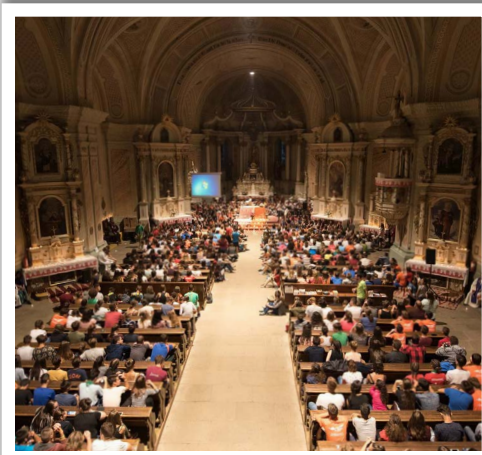
One CSIT highlight happens before the official event—when we spend a weekend helping prepare approximately 200 organizers! I worked with small group leaders, teaching them about the New Evangelization, how to discuss faith in front of others, and how to give a testimony. We also discussed how to lead a small group and had a long practice in which they role played and resolved difficult situations. We ended our time of preparation with an evening of prayer ministry.

During the official CSIT event, I was asked to offer a story of encouragement from my own life. I shared about a milestone in my Christian journey and told them to not hide if they think God is calling and challenging them. I said, “Don’t delay! Respond, trust, and step out!”

I also was blessed to have about forty people from my diocese at the event, twenty of whom had participated in our leadership program and were at CSIT as part of their training. We met daily to discuss the event and share about our experiences. We also met for prayer and Adoration. I hope one day we can organize something like CSIT in our home diocese.

**The CSIT was very blessed. I feel that God is at work. I think Romania’s renewal will come through the youth. I can feel the wave coming!**

In fact, changes are beginning to take place. It can be seen in this year’s response to Adoration. Young people were singing, kneeling with tears, and confessing—but then it ended with a surprise. When the priest went to put the Holy Sacrament back into the tabernacle, the youth spontaneously stood up and followed him. Hundreds of them stood in front of the tabernacle, and the praise seemed to have no end. The youth had experienced God, and they wanted the time to continue. They wanted more of our Lord. This is a wonderful example of what fruits Renewal Ministries can help bring to a country, in just a few years’ time!



Hundreds of young people gathered for an anointed time of Adoration.





Over 500,000 people attend the Pentecost Mass in Transylvania—many come on foot!

## LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

When choosing participants for the Diocese of Aradea’s leadership school—which consists of four weekend-long training sessions—we visited parishes for weeks, looking for potential participants. Although there unfortunately is not much youth work occurring in our parishes, we invited the “best ones” we found, and—praise the Lord—they are still actively involved with our work. It is clear we have to continue offering the youth this opportunity for growth.

We taught them basic things, like what is a personal relationship with God, how to make personal prayer time, what is discipleship, how to read your Bible, how to organize a simple event, how to lead a prayer group, why community is important, and how to know yourself better.

**This training is bearing fruit; the youth are changing. They have begun using the things they have learned. For example, four of our participants, who are from a parish that organizes a summer guitar camp, offered—on their own initiative—to organize a small competition between the groups. They did it! It worked, it was funny, and the priest and organizer were amazed. The priest kept telling us, “I didn’t have to do anything; they took care of everything!”**

The four youth organizers were very energized as well. They told me it was the best experience they had over the summer. I had told them, “You will get more—in a different way, but so much more—if you start to serve.” And they found it is true! I was so proud of them!

The training school is getting positive feedback, and I already have been contacted from a priest who wants to send more teens. After each of these events, I reflect on how grateful I am to be a part of them.

## PENTECOST PILGRIMAGE

I took a group of young people who had participated in our adventure camps for many years, and who had afterward attended prayer meetings, on a Pentecost pilgrimage. I wanted to help these young people grow closer to each other and inspire them to grow closer to the Lord. We began by celebrating Mass in Csiksomlyo—which is famous for its Pentecost Mass. That place is the spiritual center of Transylvania. Each year, over half a million people attend the Pentecost Mass there, and many come nearly thirty miles on foot. Whole parishes, with their priests, come like this, singing and praying all the way—and all the way home!



As part of the pilgrimage, we spent some time having fun with kids at an orphanage.

In addition to the Mass, we visited an orphanage at Oroszhegy. One of my helpers had been meeting with the children for about six months. The two educators who work with the children regularly are very exhausted, and so it is helpful when we organize religious programs for the children. The majority of the children are not actually orphans—but their parents cannot support them because they are so poor, so the children only go home for weekends. In some of the families, the child eats only bread, if there is any. This is hard for us to imagine.

It was wonderful to have a way to support the orphanage’s work. We shared the tasks among us, like leading games, painting, target practice, and balloon twisting. We also brought them sweets and fruit, because we didn’t want to leave them with empty hands. Giving these children sweets, a happy day, and love was the most wonderful part of our journey.

Another fruit that has come from our pilgrimage is that many of the participants applied to be volunteers and helpers in our other camps. After the camps in which I had their help, I told them, “I am not tired! This is due to you!”

One of the youth wrote the following letter to thank Renewal Ministries for its support of the pilgrimage:

**“What was my best experience? Every one of us experienced God’s presence, and this was the most important thing. God was with us throughout the journey. Another thing is also important: Tibi smoothed our steps during those few days; sacrificed his free time in order to bring others joy; and happily sang with us, helping us to feel ourselves on the palm of God’s hand. We couldn’t do this without the help of our supporters. May God reward your goodness. We are grateful both to Renewal Ministries and Tibi.”**

Thank you, Renewal Ministries and your supporters, for helping reach young people across Romania with the truth of God’s Word and love!

# On the Road

April 2018 ENGAGEMENTS

## Ann Arbor, MI i.d.9:16 Disciples' Night

April 5  
Sr. Miriam James, SOLT  
Contact: Katie@id916.com

## Ann Arbor, MI Renewal Ministries' Gathering

April 6-8  
Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck,  
Sr. Ann Shields, & Pete Burak  
Details: renewalministries.net/  
gathering

## St. Paul, MN Annual Lecture Series

April 11  
Ralph Martin  
Details: www.stthomas.edu/events

## Lansing, MI\* Deacons' Retreat

April 13-14  
Ralph Martin

## Cordoba, Argentina National Priests' Retreat\* April 16-19

National CCR Conference April 20-22  
Ralph Martin  
Contact: draimaretti@yahoo.com.ar

## Yorkville, IL Parish Mission

April 15-18  
Peter Herbeck  
Details: stpatrickyorkville.org

## Huntley, IL Millennial Church Conference

April 17  
Pete Burak  
Details: millennialchurchconference.com

## Rockford, IL Brew Night

April 17  
Pete Burak  
Details: 815catholic.com

## Vancouver, BC CWL Northshore Women's Retreat

April 20-22  
Sr. Ann Shields, SGL  
Details: ststephensnv.com/activities

## St. Paul, MN Thematic Seminar

April 21  
Dr. Mary Healy  
Details: churchofstjoseph.org

## Roseville, MI Men's Prayer Breakfast

April 21  
Peter Herbeck  
Details: stpioparish.org

## Ann Arbor, MI\* Homeschoolers' Leadership Retreat

April 21  
Debbie Herbeck

## Ann Arbor, MI BeLoved

April 25  
Pete Burak  
Details: belovereolution.com/events

## Bronx, NY Divine Mercy Conference

April 28  
Ralph Martin  
Details: thedivinemeracy.org/events

## MISSIONS

### Mexico

April 3-9  
Jim "Butch" Murphy  
& Debbie Herbeck

### Mozambique & Malawi

April 24-May 7  
Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw

For more information about missions,  
contact Kathleen at 734-662-1730 ext. 132  
or [kkittle@renewalministries.net](mailto:kkittle@renewalministries.net)

### Ottawa, ON

#### New Evangelization Summit

April 27-28  
Sr. Ann Shields, SGL  
Details: newevangelization.ca

### Raleigh, NC

#### Catholic Charismatic Renewal Diocesan Conference

April 28  
Peter Herbeck  
Details: dioceseofraleigh.org

### Halifax, NS\*

#### Priests' Retreat

April 29-May 4  
Peter Herbeck

### Green Bay, WI

#### Millennial Church Conference

April 30  
Pete Burak  
Details: millennialchurchconference.com

\* Not open to the public. For a complete listing, visit: [RenewalMinistries.net/Events](http://RenewalMinistries.net/Events)

## RENEWAL MINISTRIES

### In the United States

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Archbishop Robert J. Carlson, St. Louis, MO

#### Chairman of the Board

Deacon Dan Foley

#### President

Ralph Martin

### In Canada

#### Episcopal Advisor

Cardinal Thomas Collins, Toronto, ON

#### Chairman of the Board

Monsignor Gregory Smith, Vancouver, BC

Renewal Ministries is a Catholic ministry committed to renewal and evangelization in the Church. It seeks to proclaim Jesus Christ through its TV and radio outreaches, as well as through books, conferences, retreats, and other international evangelistic events.

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Download the **i.d.9:16 mobile App** for  
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content and so much more!

#### Editor

Heather Schultz

#### Design

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